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## THE IMPORTANCE OF SHEEP AND GOATS IN THE YUGOSLAV LEATHER INDUSTRY

The Leskovac and Vranje regions produce exceptionally black lamb skins suitable for fur, while Zajecar, Knjazevac, and Svrnjig produce curly haired lamb skins also well suited for fur. CONFIDENTIAL

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In Macedonia, the goat and kid skins are good structurally but are pitted and easily scarred. Lamb and sheep skins are of fairly good quality in the vicinity of Kumanovo. Around Bitolj, lamb and sheep skins are of good quality. The raw skins are inferior in other parts of Macedonia, except for lamb skins, which are especially good for gloves.

The Sava Basin in Bosnia, especially Bijeljina, furnishes lamb, sheep, goat, and kid skins that make fairly good raw material.

Kid and goat skins from the vicinity of Travnik are similar to those of the Danube Basin, while lamb and sheep skins are like those of the Morava Basin.

Bosnian shearling is well-known and brings a good price abroad.

Montenegro produces rather inferior sheep and lamb skins, known as "brown paw," the purchase of which is avoided by foreign countries.

The goat and sheep skins of Herzegovina are poor in quality, like those of Montenegro.

Croatia (Dalmatia around Split) produces fairly good kid and lamb skins of "first shearling" quality for glovemaking.

Serbian goat and sheep skins are of good quality, similar in quality to those of Italy and Spain, and are in demand in foreign countries.

The number of sheep and goats in Yugoslavia has increased from 9,908,600 sheep and 1,901,400 goats in 1937 to 10,600,000 sheep and 1,300,000 goats in 1949.

The industrial export of raw sheep and goat skins is expected to decrease as the capacity of factories to produce finished products increases.

Yugoslavia has one model leather-finishing factory which is the equal of the most modern in Central Europe. This factory receives almost all the skins finished in Yugoslavia.

The following table shows how recent Yugoslav exports of goat skins compare with exports of goat-leather goods (percent):

	<u>Raw Skins</u>		<u>Finished Products</u>	
	<u>Kid</u>	<u>Goat</u>	<u>Kid</u>	<u>Goat</u>
1947	81	66	19	34
1948	75	40	25	60
1949	69	39	31	61

Yugoslavia is in a good position to undertake the production of sheep and goat leather articles for export. The sale of finished products abroad would furnish reserves of foreign currency necessary for the purchase of machines and chemical products for Yugoslav industry.

Exports of live sheep and goats should be curtailed for the following reasons:

1. Wool is the most important raw material in the textile industry.
2. Goat hair is valuable in the textile industry.
3. Two kilograms of wool can be obtained from a single goat.

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